

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island

January 30, 2007



Providence man admits to gun & drug charges

Samoeun Nak, 26, of Providence, pleaded guilty today to drug-trafficking and gun charges, admitting that he had cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, and a handgun at an apartment on Maplehurst Street when Providence Police searched it in November. Nak told police that he had bought the gun to help him protect his “stuff.”

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Nak entered today before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra R. Beckner said that the government could prove that, on November 8, 2006, Providence detectives executed a search warrant at an apartment on Maplehurst Street. In a bedroom, officers found crack cocaine, powder cocaine, marijuana, and a .380 caliber pistol. Elsewhere in the apartment, they found a digital scale and drug-packaging materials, plus about \$5,000 in cash.

Nak pleaded guilty to five charges: possessing with intent to distribute cocaine, crack cocaine, and marijuana; being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possessing a firearm to further a drug-trafficking crime. The cocaine and crack cocaine offenses have maximum penalties of 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine; the marijuana-trafficking offense has

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maximum of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; being a felon in possession of a firearm carries a maximum of ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine; possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime requires a minimum of five years in prison, consecutive to any other sentence imposed, and a maximum of life in prison plus a \$250,000 fine.

Providence Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Beckner is prosecuting it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 750 years in federal prison.

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